Area Plan Summary

Hamline Midway Community Plan

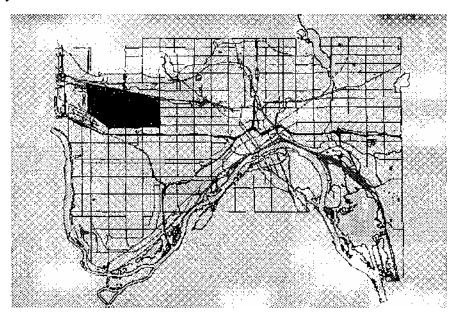
Addendum to The Comprehensive Plan for Saint Paul
Recommended by the Planning Commission - November 17, 2000
Adopted by the City Council - December 20, 2000

This summary appends to the Comprehensive Plan the vision and strategies of the Hamline Midway Community Plan and replaces the District 11 Plan, adopted in 1979. The plan maps out a community agenda rooted in jive core values: (1) embrace and celebrate diversity, (2) ensure access to and participation in all projects and programs regardless of race, income, age or ability, (3) promote action to support the needs of children and youth, (4) incorporate environmentally sensitive practices, and (5) incorporate public art and quality design.

Copies of the full-length plan are available for review at the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development and the office of the Hamline Midway Coalition.

Location

The Hamline Midway community-also known as Citizen Participation District 11 is bounded on the north by the Burlington Northern railroad tracks that lie just north of Pierce Butler Route, on the east by Lexington Parkway, on the south by University Avenue and on the west by Transfer Road with an extension straight north to transect Pierce Butler. North Snelling Avenue runs through the center of the community.



Hamline Midway

Vision

Hamline Midway will be characterized by its sense of place, with well used neighborhood centers and with attractive streets and paths that provide transportation options. It will be a neighborhood where housing options enhance the quality of life and encourage diversity in age, income, culture and mobility. The neighborhood will be a stable place where people will choose to live and want to stay. Hamline Midway will build a web of human interaction with programs and activities that bring people together to express their creativity and honor their cultures and history. It will welcome families and ensure access to prenatal and child care. The community will invest in education, recreation and youth employment, will organize intergenerational activities and will hear the voices of young people. Finally, Hamline Midway will create a safe and attractive environment for living, working and shopping. Community-based organizations will work to improve people's ability to find and keep living-wage jobs, and their entrepreneurial endeavors. The community will operate in ways that are beneficial for both residents and businesses.

Specific Action Strategies and Implementation Steps

Public Life and Space

The plan recommends a series of actions-to include carefully designing streets slated for repaving, connecting neighborhood spaces with improved bicycle routes, promoting sustainable landscaping in yards and boulevards, making streetscape improvements to commercial streets especially Snelling Avenue and, as appropriate, University Avenue, and improving the quality of and access to community gathering spaces-designed to strengthen the character of the community's public realm. On specific sites, priorities include the redesign and reconstruction of the Griggs Recreation Center and relocation of the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe intermodal hub facility as well as mitigation of current problems as long as the hub remains active.

Housing for All

The plan emphasizes the need for more life-cycle and affordable housing, maintenance and preservation of the neighborhood's existing housing stock through proactive attention to and action on distressed properties, better access to housing maintenance assistance programs, technical assistance to homeowners and rental property owners, and involvement of tenants and multi-family property owners in community affairs. In addition, it recommends the development of alternatives to single-family housing throughout the neighborhood as opportunities arise.

Community Enrichment and Pride

Building various connections between neighborhood residents is the focus of a third series of recommendations. Specific suggestions include: building stronger block clubs, establishing a community garden, developing a neighborhood history, organizing a barter network and building a stronger relationship with Hamline University.

Children and Youth

Creating places for children and youth represents a unique emphasis in this community plan. Establishing a youth center and a "skate park" and organizing parents and child care providers around a grass-roots effort to improve and expand neighborhood child care options are key priorities. In addition, the plan recommends the establishment of a youth-focused conflict resolution program and a community trust fund for youth and their families.

Economic Opportunity and Business Development

Strengthening the variety of businesses that are a part of the Hamline Midway community is the focus of the final series of plan recommendations. Gathering and sharing information with and providing technical assistance to owners of legally-established home-based businesses as well as existing and prospective businesses in the neighborhood's established commercial corridors will serve to build local ownership and increase neighborhood capital, increase the number and diversity of readily available goods and services and expand employment opportunities for residents. The community will also focus on strengthening the context for business growth: reducing crime, improving perceptions, improving access to technology, strengthening and improving transportation alternatives, training the work force and resolving conflicts between business owners and residents related to parking.

City Action

To encourage implementation of this vision, the City of Saint Paul should include in its budget and program priorities the following activities. More detail about each proposed action is included in the full-length plan and should be reviewed by the appropriate City staff.

- 1. Set up pre-design meetings on street paving under the Residential Street Vitality Program. (Public Works)
- 2. Collaborate on the Streetscape Design Plan with an initial focus on Snelling Avenue from University Avenue to the Pierce Butler Route and then allocate capital improvement funding for implementation. (Public Works, PED, CIB Committee)
- 3. Collaborate in design improvements and budgeting for community gathering places, such as parks, recreation facilities, and the branch library. (Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Libraries)
- 4. Designate and improve neighborhood bike routes and the connection from Hamline Midway to Como Park. (Public Works, Parks and Recreation)
- 5. At the BNSF Intermodal Hub, keep looking for ways to mitigate impacts and ultimately to redevelop the site. (LIEP, Port Authority, PED)
- 6. Redesign and reconstruct Griggs Recreation Center. (Parks and Recreation)
- 7. Working with the neighborhood, use City enforcement powers and financing to fix distressed properties. (LIEP, Public Health, Fire Marshall, PED)
- 9. Collaborate with others to improve access to housing maintenance assistance programs. (PED)
- 10. Work with community development partners to develop alternatives to single family housing. (PED)
- 11. Collaborate with others to provide information and resources for maintaining the existing housing stock, especially low-income housing. (PED, Libraries)
- 12. Continue and expand loan and grant programs to improve rental housing. (PED)
- 13. Work to establish a community garden at Mays Park. (Parks and Recreation)
- 14. Continue to support the block club program. (Police)
- 15. Work to create a "skate park." (Parks and Recreation)
- 16. Collaborate as appropriate in the establishment of a teen center. (Parks and Recreation)
- 17. Work with the community to improve community safety and image. (Police, Public Works, PED)

- 18. Collaborate as appropriate to foster business development through sharing market data and best practices as well as grant and loan programs to assist start-up and existing businesses. (PED)
- 19. Plan and carry out improvements in transportation alternatives. (Public Works, PED)
- 20. Coordinate workforce development efforts through the Greater Midway Work Resources Hub. (PED)
- 21. Provide staff input to neighborhood meetings on parking conflicts. (Public Works, PED)
- 23. Help supply information needed by home-based businesses. (Libraries, PED)
- 24. Help smooth the transitions between land uses where industrial, commercial or institutional uses are adjacent to or abut residential property, especially along Sherburne, Fairview, Prior, Minnehaha and near Pierce Butler Route. (PED, LIEP, Planning Commission)

Planning Commission Findings

The Planning Commission finds that *The Hamline Midway Community Plan* is consistent with the *Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan* and other adopted City policies.

Planning Process_

The community planning process was co-sponsored by the Hamline Midway Coalition, the Hamline-Midway Area Rehabilitation Corporation (H-MARC), the Midway Chamber of Commerce, University UNITED and the Midway Family YMCA. Beginning with a May 1997 town meeting, community members spent a year articulating a vision for community change, researching long-term trends and community needs and developing strategies designed to move the community toward its vision. This work was done through a combination of large community-wide meetings, five small strategy groups and less formal input from community members. A total of more than 325 people participated in the process. Financial support was provided by Saint Paul LISC, the Pew Charitable Trust and the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board.